

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Request re: Formal Drawings Previously Submitted to PTO:

During a review of their file, Applicant has noted that the PTO has not yet acknowledged acceptance of the formal drawings submitted on November 10, 2000. Applicant respectfully requests that the PTO acknowledge acceptance of the drawings in its next communication.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 15 are currently being amended.

Claims 2 and 3 are currently being canceled, whereby the features of those claims are now included in claim 1.

Claims 18-22 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1 and 4-22 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,422,061 to Sunshine et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Sunshine '061"). This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of now-canceled claims 2 and 3, as well as to recite additional features. In particular, presently pending claim 1 recites that the processor manager and the electronic library reside in a second device, and that the second device corresponds to a server connectable to the first device via the computer network.

These features highlighted above in claim 1 can be seen, for example, in Figure 8 of the drawings, and in the description of that figure in the specification. Such features are not disclosed or suggested by Sunshine '061.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Sunshine '061.

Dependent claims 4-14 are patentable due to their dependence on base claim 1, as well as for the specific features recited in those claims.

With respect to presently pending independent claim 15, that claim has been amended to recite that the second device corresponds to a server computer. Again, referring to Figure 8 of the drawings and the description of that figure in the specification, such features are not disclosed or suggested by Sunshine '061.

Dependent claims 16 and 17 are patentable due to their dependence on base claim 15, as well as for the specific features recited in those claims.

New Claims:

New claims 18-22 have been added, to recite additional features of the present invention that are believed to patentably distinguish over Sunshine '061. In particular, new dependent claim 18 recites that the second device further includes an electronic library that stores data corresponding to known analytes, to be compared to the unknown analyte at the second device, in order to identify the unknown analyte. Again, referring to Figure 8 of the drawings and the description of that figure in the specification, such features are not disclosed or suggested by Sunshine '061. New independent claim 19 recites features shown, for example, in Figure 9 of the drawings, and as described in the specification with respect to that figure. Such features, in which the first (remote) device performs analysis of analytes based on information provided to it by a second (central) device, are not disclosed or suggested by Sunshine '061. New dependent claims 20-22 recites additional features of the system shown in Figure 9 of the drawings, whereby these features are also not disclosed or suggested by Sunshine '061.

Conclusion:

Since all of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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